

**CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 25, 2005
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA**

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on May 25th at 1:30 p.m. at the Elihu Harris Building, Auditorium, Oakland, CA.

Members Present: Joseph E. Petrillo, Chair
Marc Adelman, Vice Chair
Donna Lee Andrews, Vice Chair
Fran Florez, Vice Chair
Rod Diridon, Sr.
Bob Giroux
Lynn Schenk
T.J. Stapleton

Opening Comments

Chair Petrillo thanked the audience for coming to today's meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for the following Authority Meetings:

Chair Petrillo presented the minutes from the February 23, 2005 meeting for approval. Member Stapleton moved to approve the minutes, Member Diridon seconded, which carried 8-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chair Petrillo presented the list of meetings for compensation for approval. Member Stapleton moved to approve the list of meetings for compensation, Member Diridon seconded, which carried 8-0.

Members Reports

Chair Petrillo reported on the site visit of the Japanese high-speed rail system, hosted by the Japanese Overseas Rolling Stock Association (JORSA). The study group was provided with an entire system overview of the operations of the high-speed rail in Japan. The group was able to view the entire transportation infrastructure including the stations and the local connections with other transportation systems.

Chair Petrillo reported on several meetings he had with various legislators regarding AB 713. AB 713 would postpone the California High-Speed Rail bond measure from November 2006 to November 2008. At these meetings, legislators committed their support to the high-speed rail and were made aware of the increase in costs and delay of construction if the bill passes.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Morshed reported that one of the aspects of the Japan trip that impressed him most was the incorporation of the stations in the overall development plan and the ability of the Japanese high-speed trains to adhere to Japan's strict standards on noise reduction.

Executive Director Morshed reported on the workshop scheduled for June 1st with Assembly member Parra and some of her legislative colleagues. The legislators have joined together to forward the high-speed rail project in California and would like to meet with staff and members of the Authority.

Executive Director Morshed reported on the meeting Assembly member Goldberg has arranged in Los Angeles on June 25th. The meeting is designed to discuss the impact of high-speed rail along the alignment, specifically between Sylmar and LA Union Station.

Executive Director Morshed reported that the Parks Foundation issued a report that listed high-speed rail as one of the major threats to California parks. In response, Chair Petrillo wrote a letter which cited that many of the parks listed in their report will not be impacted by the high-speed train system. Authority staff is working with the Parks Foundation to make sure that the correct information is presented to the public.

Executive Director Morshed gave a report on the budget request for \$2.7 million for the program EIR/EIS for the Northern Mountain crossing, the defense of the environmental document, and for the preparation of a financial plan. Of the \$2.7 million request, \$500k for the legal defense of the EIR has been approved, however the \$1.7 for the Northern Mountain Crossing EIR/EIS and the \$500k for the Financing Plan are currently contingent on the resolution of AB 713.

Implementation Plan

Deputy Director Carrie Pourvahidi presented an overview of the Implementation Plan for board review and comment. The document is a discussion of the implementation of a high-speed train system in California. The final version of the implementation plan will be submitted at the next Authority meeting for the Board's approval. Copies of the draft implementation plan is available for public comment on the Authority's website www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

Public Comment

Kim Forrest, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ms. Forrest expressed concern over the environmental impacts to the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge and Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge from the possible construction of a bridge over the San Francisco Bay in the Altamont Pass alignment.

Rich Wright, Grassland Water District

Mr. Wright expressed concern over the Los Banos high-speed train alignment that impacts the Grassland Resource Conservation District.

Bob Link, Mayor of Visalia

Mayor Link reported to the Authority on their efforts in raising local funds for the Southern San Joaquin study. Mayor Link reported on a meeting he and the City Manager of Visalia had with several members of Congress to discuss the importance of the high-speed rail system for California.

Walter Strakosh

Mr. Strakosh expressed concern on high speed rail trains losing high speed performance if they have to share tracks with existing commuter rail service.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.